

a second layer attached to said first layer, said second layer having a liquid impervious plastic material;

wherein said first layer has a thickness;

wherein said thickness is in the range of 1 to 2 mils.

10. (Twice Amended) A drop cloth for covering a surface, comprising:

a first layer having a non-woven fabric material, said non-woven fabric material including rayon fibers; and

a second layer attached to said first layer, said second layer having a liquid impervious plastic material;

wherein said first layer has a thickness;

wherein said thickness is in the range of 1 to 2 mils.

REMARKS

The Advisory Action dated June 25, 2002 has been carefully reviewed. Independent claims 1 and 10 are amended herein to incorporate the limitation provided in claims 2 and 11, respectively. A marked-up version of the rewritten claims is submitted concurrently herewith in Appendix A. Specifically, claims 1 and 10 are being amended to limit the thickness of the first layer of the drop cloth to fall in the range of 1 to 2 mils. Claims 2 and 11 are, therefore, being canceled herein.

The Examiner stated in the Advisory Action that limiting the thickness of the first layer to the range of 1 to 2 mils is deemed patentable. The Examiner noted, however, that this limitation was only present in dependent claims 2 and 11, rather than the independent claims. Therefore, as mentioned above, independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include this limitation. Claims 2 and 11 are herein canceled. Remaining claims 3-9 depend from claim 1 and remaining claims 12-17 depend from claim 10.

It is respectfully requested that to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to respond to the final official action dated February 26, 2002. A period for response was set to expire May 26, 2002. Applicants enclose herewith the \$200.00 small entity fee for a two-month extension of time for filing a response. Please charge any additional fee or credit any overpayment to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 10-435 with reference to file 32251-70829.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. G. Addison', written over a horizontal line.

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APPENDIX A
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1. (Twice Amended) A drop cloth for covering a surface, comprising:
a first layer having a non-woven fabric material, said non-woven fabric material including natural fibers; and
a second layer attached to said first layer, said second layer having a liquid impervious plastic material;
wherein said first layer has a thickness;
wherein said thickness is [less than 10.0 mils] in the range of 1 to 2 mils.

10. (Twice Amended) A drop cloth for covering a surface, comprising:
a first layer having a non-woven fabric material, said non-woven fabric material including rayon fibers; and
a second layer attached to said first layer, said second layer having a liquid impervious plastic material;
wherein said first layer has a thickness;
wherein said thickness is [less than 10.0 mils] in the range of 1 to 2 mils.